



PEARL HARBOR NAVAL SHIPYARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Pearl Harbor Shipyard Supports Hiring of Wounded Veterans

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PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii – Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard hosted 20 representatives from state and federal veterans affairs organizations as part of an effort to build awareness of job opportunities for “Wounded Warriors” from all military services Jan. 14.

“The Shipyard represents an opportunity for service members to continue to use their skills and talents in a trade that provides a needed service for our nation,” said Shipyard Commander Capt. Gregory Thomas.

The Shipyard, with a combined civilian and military workforce of about 4,800, is the largest industrial employer in Hawaii. Many civilian workers have previously served in the armed forces.

However, an area of particular interest shared by the visitors and the Shipyard is hiring of Wounded Warriors. A Wounded Warrior is defined as any U.S. veteran with a 30 percent or more Department of Veterans Affairs disability rating and who served a tour in Iraq or Afghanistan.

The Shipyard hired nine Wounded Warriors during the past two fiscal years. The command's fiscal year 2010 hiring target is 10.

The 20 visitors came from the state Department of Human Services, Hawaii Office of Veterans Affairs, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Wounded Warrior Battalion West from Marine Corps Base Hawaii and the Warrior Transition Battalion from Tripler Army Medical Center.

The representatives were briefed about the Shipyard and then toured a machine shop on the waterfront and a submarine in dry dock.

The visit came on the heels of an agreement signed the day before by the Naval Sea Systems Command (NAVSEA) and the Army's Warrior Transition Command (WTC) in Washington, D.C. The agreement increases opportunities for internships for, and employment of, combat-wounded veterans at NAVSEA and its field activities, which include four naval shipyards.

"We are a workforce of about 60,000, 95 percent of which are civilian employees," said Vice Adm. Kevin McCoy, NAVSEA commander. "Half of NAVSEA ... wears a hardhat and steel-toe shoes to work each day. In my opinion, we have the best blue-collar jobs in America — jobs you can raise a family on."

For Wounded Warriors interested in employment opportunities at NAVSEA and Navy commands interested in supporting Wounded Warriors, contact Cmdr. David McAfee at david.r.mcafee@navy.mil or (202) 781-1364.

For more information on the Shipyard, visit <http://www.navsea.navy.mil/shipyards/pearl/default.aspx>.